

## **Testimony in support of 6784 An Act Expanding Paid Sick Leave**

My name is Holly McGrath and I am a Milford resident. I work as a trainer at a gym in Orange. I want the Committee to know how easily a large business can avoid providing paid sick time to its employees just by restructuring it into franchises or smaller businesses.

I work for a chain of gyms all owned by the same people but organized into three separate franchises. Because the owners employ more than 50 people but do not employ all of us under one umbrella organization, they are not required to offer us paid sick days under the current legislation.

I suffer from an autoimmune disorder and arthritis despite my fitness background and young age. Because I am a trainer, if my conditions flare up, working becomes more than difficult for me; I am in pain and my mobility is reduced. Because I need to work to pay my bills, taking a day off is a hardship for me. I must choose between being unable to pay a bill or endangering my health or the health of the gym's clients.

Luckily, because I take care of my health, I do not get sick often. But when I do, I face a serious dilemma as to whether I will work or not. It is a hard decision. All I need is a few days a year so that I can take care of my health at home when things get really bad, but because the paid sick days law does not cover my employer, I have to make a decision between my health and my pay.

The decision becomes a lot easier and safer when companies like mine have to provide us with paid sick time. Amending the current legislation to include businesses with as few as 10 employees will only improve lives and workplace safety.

I urge passage of HB6784. Thank you.

Holly McGrath  
Milford